

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 03028 101320 Z

51

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 H-02 EB-11 SCEM-02 L-03 COME-00

OPIC-12 INT-08 AID-20 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /129 W
----- 027007

R 092235 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9387

INFO USCINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3028

E. O. 11652 XGDS2

TAGS: PINT, VE

SUBJECT: PEREZ JIMENEZ MUM ON SURROGATE

REF: A. CARACAS 8024 OCT 17, 1972; B. CARACAS 0459

SUMMARY: AS APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WHICH WILL
PRECLUDE

PJ CANDIDACY GOES THROUGH FINAL STAGES, EX- DICTATOR MARCOS PEREZ
JIMENEZ (PJ) CONTINUES TO BIDE HIS TIME BEFORE MAKING KNOWN WHO, IF
ANYONE, HE WILL SUPPORT IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. SEVENTEEN STATES (ONLY 14 REQUIRED) HAVE RATIFIED CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT PASSED BY CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER, WHICH STATES THAT NO
ONE

CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS OR MORE FOR CRIMES
COMMITTED

IN OFFICE MAY BE ELECTED PRESIDENT, SENATOR, DEPUTY, OR SUPREME
COURT JUSTICE (REF A). AMENDMENT WILL PRECLUDE PJ CANDIDACY FOR
DECEMBER 1973 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. SECRETARY OF SENATE EXPECTS
CONGRESS TO TAKE FINAL STEP, CERTIFICATION OF STATE RATIFICATIONS,
THIS MONTH.

2. PEREZ JIMENEZ AND HIS ADVISOR PEDRO ESTRADA CONTINUE TO MEET
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PEREZJIMENISTA GROUPS AND OTHERS WHO HOPE
TO GAIN BY AGREEMENT WITH PJ. FOLLOWING PEDRO TINOCO' S TALKS WITH
PJ IN JANUARY (REF B), DESARROLLISTA JOSE ANTONIO ABREU CARRIED ON
TALKS WITH PJ AND ESTRADA TO DRAW UP PROGRAM AGREEABLE TO PJ AND
DESARROLLISTAS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 03028 101320 Z

ACCORDING TO DESARROLLISTA JOSE TORO HARDY, BASIC ISSUE IS PETROLEUM, AND AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED THAT PRODUCTION SHOULD BE EXPANDED, USING FOREIGN INVESTMENT. ACCORDING TO TORO, PJ STILL HOLDS RANCOR AGAINST US, BUT IS PRAGMATIC AND WOULD NOT LET THIS FEELING STAND IN WAY OF ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES SUCH AS FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN PETROLEUM OR ITS MARKETING. DESARROLLISTAS HOPE TO OBTAIN PJ'S AGREEMENT ON PROGRAM, AND THEN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR TINOCO AFTER HE HAS ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY. DESARROLLISTA MONEY PLUS PEREZJIMENISTA POPULAR FOLLOWING WOULD BE POWERFUL ELECTORAL COMBINATION, BUT EVEN IF PJ SHOULD AGREE TO SUPPORT TINOCO QUESTION REMAINS HOW MUCH OF PJ APPEAL COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO HIM.

3. GENERAL (R) MARTIN GARCIA VILLASMIL RETURNED FROM TALKS WITH PJ IN MADRID APRIL 6 AND TOLD PRESS PJ WILL DECIDE IN MAY OR JUNE WHICH OF TWO CANDIDATES, ONE OF WHOM IS GARCIA, HE WILL BACK. TORO SAYS GARCIA AND TINOCO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT AND GARCIA HAS AGREED TO GO ALONG IF TINOCO GETS PJ NOD.

4. PJ HAS ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH COPEI AND MOVIMIENTO AL SOCIALISMO (MAS) REPRESENTATIVES. JOVITO VILLALBA, CANDIDATE OF UNION REPUBLICANA DEMOCRATICA, PUBLICLY SEEKS VOTES OF PJ FOLLOWERS. MIGUEL ANGEL BURELLI RIVAS NO LONGER HOPES FOR PJ'S PUBLIC SUPPORT. ALL THESE HOPE PJ WILL NAME NO ONE, AS EACH WOULD EXPECT TO PICK UP VOTES THAT WOULD HAVE GONE TO PJ-DESIGNEE.

5. PJ PARTIES HAVE BEGUN TO PROPOSE NOMINATION OF OWN LEADERS -- LUIS FELIPE LLOVERA PAEZ OF PARTIDO NACIONALISTA INTEGRACIONALISTA (PNI), PABLO SALAS CASTILLO OF CRUZADA CIVICA NACIONALISTA (CCN), AND ALEJANDRO GOMEZ SILVA OF FRENTE UNIDO NACIONALISTA (FUN) -- AS POTENTIAL CAMPORA-LIKE STAND-IN FOR PJ OR AS THEIR OWN CANDIDATE IF PJ NAMES NO ONE. STILL, ALL MAINTAIN THAT PJ IS THEIR CANDIDATE, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NOTWITHSTANDING, UNLESS HE SAYS OTHERWISE. CCN HAS VOWED TO CHALLENGE AMENDMENT IN SUPREME COURT. PJ COULD MAINTAIN HIS OWN CANDIDACY UNTIL COURT DECISION, USING

CAMPAIGN TO GATHER SUPPORT FOR PEREZJIMENISTA CONGRESSIONAL SLATES AND TO ATTACK ESTABLISHMENT PARTIES (ESPECIALLY AD). THEN SHOULD HE LOSE COURT CASE (AS IS LIKELY) HE COULD STILL THROW HIS SUPPORT TO ANOTHER REGISTERED CANDIDATE (POSSIBLY TINOCO) OR FREE FOLLOWERS

TO VOTE AS THEY WISH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 03028 101320 Z

5. PJ COULD MAKE HIS DECISION KNOWN IN MID- APRIL, WHEN CCN CONVENTION MEETS AND PNI DELEGATION RETURNS FROM MADRID. HOWEVER, PERIOD FOR FORMAL REGISTRATION OF CANDIDACIES IS NOT UNTIL JUNE 1 - JULY 31. IT WOULD BE TYPICAL OF PJ TO KEEP ALL HOPEFULS DANGLING UNTIL LAST MINUTE. MEANWHILE, RUMORS WILL FLY, BUT ONLY PJ HIMSELF WILL REALLY KNOW WHAT HE IS THINKING AND PLANNING.
MCCLINTOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CARACA03028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730437/aaaahyiv.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.CARACAS 8024 OCT 17, 1972, B.CARACAS 0459
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <02-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971212
Subject: PEREZ JIMENEZ MUM ON SURROGATE
TAGS: PINT, VE, PINT
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO FOR POLAD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005